

Remarks

Claims 1-5, 7-16, 18-23, 27 and 28 are pending in the application. Claims 1-5 and 7-13 are allowed; claims 14, 22, 23, 27 and 28 are rejected; and claims 15, 16 and 18-21 are objected to. By this paper, claim 14 is amended; claims 15, 16, 22, 23, 27 and 28 are cancelled; and claims 29-34 are added. Based on the following, consideration of the new and amended claims and reconsideration of the remaining claims are requested.

Specification

By this paper, paragraph 35 of the Specification is amended to correct a typographical error. In particular, Figures 3B and 3C were inadvertently referred to as Figures 2B and 2C. By this paper, this error is corrected.

Claim Rejections—35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 14, 22, 23 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,835,878 (Saito et al.). By this paper, claims 22, 23 and 27 are cancelled, rendering moot their rejections. Also by this paper, claim 14 is amended to include all of the limitations of claim 15, which was objected to by the Examiner. Therefore, claim 14 is believed to be allowable.

Claims Rejections—35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claim 28 as being unpatentable over Saito et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,347,680 (Mianzo et al.). By this paper, claim 28 is cancelled, rendering moot its rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claims 1-5 and 7-13. The Examiner objected to claims 15, 16 and 18-21 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that each would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of its respective base claim and any intervening claims. As noted above, all of the limitations from claim 15 have been incorporated into claim 14 which is believed to be allowable. Claim 16 is cancelled by this paper, rendering moot its rejection. Amended claim 14 is the base claim for claims 18-21, each of which is believed to be allowable.

New Claims

By this paper, claims 29-34 are added. Claim 29 includes all of the limitations of claim 14 and objected to claim 16, and is therefore believed to be allowable. Claim 30 includes all of the limitations of claim 14 and objected to claim 18, and is also believed to be allowable. Claim 30 is the base claim for claims 31-33, each of which is believed to be allowable. Claim 34 includes all of the limitations of claims 14 and objected to claims 15 and 16, as well as additional limitations that further distinguish it from the cited references. Therefore, claim 34 is also believed to be allowable.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant requests the allowance of each of the pending claims.

Please charge any fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to Ford Global Technologies, LLC Deposit Account No. 06-1510.

Respectfully submitted,

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